

ARTICLE BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, FOR SOUTHERN PROGRESS EDITION OF THE "AMERICAN WOOL & COTTON REPORTER." DECEMBER 1, 1950.

In looking back over the textile and other industrial progress made in South Carolina during 1950 and in recent years, one must inevitably take into account the attitudes and aptitudes of the capable citizens of our State.

It has been through their efforts and their determination to succeed that the State has managed to move forward in 1950 with the same impetus that we had in other post-war years. The people of South Carolina demand good, sound government -- a government which can and will encourage the development of our industrial potential to the fullest extent.

South Carolina's inducements to industry are such that the State's post-war development has been nothing less than phenomenal, particularly in the last few years. Since 1946, a total of \$425,000,000 in new industries or expansions either began operation, started construction, or were announced for construction in the State.

In the textile industry -- the giant of our industrial family -- the growth has been especially rapid. We have witnessed the establishment of almost 100 new plants in textile or allied industries since V-J Day.

The State Research, Planning and Development Board has the pleasant and satisfying job of working with new and existing industrial enterprises. This board, created by the legislature in 1945, has won the respect and admiration of hundreds of industrial concerns throughout the country. It approaches its work entirely from a scientific viewpoint, and its "selling points" about South Carolina are completely factual. The board will be delighted to provide its services for collection of information and data to any legitimate industrial organization. Charles N. Plowden, former



Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee of our House of Representatives, will be the Director of the board, succeeding, L. W. Bishop when the latter resigns to accept a position in industry.

Since South Carolina is still primarily an agricultural State, the tremendous industrial progress of recent years has helped to balance its economy, but it has not absorbed all of the splendid locations available to other industries which might be seeking sites for new plants. In every one of our 46 counties ideal sites are available for industry.

The spread of manufacturing plants into agricultural counties and to village areas adjacent to our cities has been an outstanding development in our economy. Many new enterprises have purchased large tracts of land for their operations, and have spent money and energy in maintaining the natural beauty of the countryside.

The determination of our people to adapt themselves to industrial working conditions has been demonstrated many times. Every manufacturer to locate in our State, so far as I know, has been impressed with the skills and abilities of our citizens. They can adapt themselves quickly to new operations, and they enter into their new jobs without prejudiced conceptions of the work.

One executive said: "The people of South Carolina, with their skills, their desire to work, and their manner of living impressed us. We know that we will be happy living among them and working with them."

Our supply of intelligent labor -- 99.7% native born -- is still at a high peak. Recently a manufacturer planning a mill in a rural region tested the labor supply by advertising for 300 workers. He was swamped by 3,500 applications. About 90% of these were high school graduates, and 23% had a college education.

South Carolina has increased its status as the busiest textile state in the nation, having ranked first in the United States



again in 1949 in cotton spinning spindle hours. There is every indication that this leadership will continue.

The synthetic fibre industry is finding South Carolina a profitable field. Management has learned that our textile employees can easily adapt themselves to new fibers or new weaving methods. For example, production has started in the Celanese Corporation's huge plant at Rock Hill, and DuPont has opened its great new Orlon plant at Camden.

The wool industry is following in the footsteps of cottons and synthetics. Some existing wool and worsted plants have expanded, and new ones have been established.

While many other industries are finding South Carolina suitable for development, the emphasis remains on textiles. Approximately 70% of the value of our annual production is in this field, and South Carolinians are well aware of the importance of textile manufacturing in their daily lives. They are unanimous in their desire to encourage the continued development of this great industry.